

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4769

INFO AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AORG, UN, USSR

SUBJ: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON DPL PARKING

1. AT USUN RECEPTION 17 JULY, SENIOR COUNSELLOR OVINNIKOV MADE STRONG DEMARCHE TO TWO MISOFFS CONCERNING TICKETING OF SOV DPL CARS. OVINNIKOV TOOK POSITION NYC CONDUCTING DELIBERATE CAMPAIGN HARASS AND EMBARRASS SOVIET MISSION BY TICKETING THEIR CARS IN VICINITY SOVIET MISSION AND THEIR RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREAS IN UPPER MANHATTAN. SAID TICKETING MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY, THAT NEW YORK NEWS STORY RE TULINOV'S EXTENSIVE PARKING TICKET RECORD WAS DELIBERATE ACT OF USUN TO EMBARRASS HIM AND SOVIET MISSION, THAT TICKETING AND TOWING CONTRARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THAT SOVIET MISSION WOULD CARRY THEIR FIGHT AGAINST TICKETING TO THE PLENARY AT 29TH GA. HE FURTHER THREATENED THAT SOV GOVT WOULD BE FORCED TO RETALIATE IN MOSCOW IF TICKETING DID NOT CEASE.

2. WE HAVE SELDOM SEEN OVINNKKOV SO WORKED UP ON A BILATERAL ISSUE. HE REFUSED SUGGESTION THAT USUN AND SOV MISSION SIT DOWN INFORMALLY TO DISCUSS MATTER UNLESS US FIRST AGREED TO DISCONTINUE TICKETING ALL SOV DPL CARS. HE WAS UNREASONABLE AND OUTRIGHT RUDE IN HIS MANNER, EVEN SUGGESTING THAT DETENTE COULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED

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BY THE ISSUE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT SOVS FOR SOMETIME HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH THEIR PARKING HABITS (THEY MAY AVERAGE AS MANY AS 1,000 TICKETS A WEEK) AND HAVE RECENTLY REFUSED TO SEND THEIR BUNDLES OF TICKETS TO USUN FOR CANCELLATION. THEIR POSITION IS THAT AS TICKETING IS ILLEGAL, THEY REFUSE TO FORWARD THEM TO USUN. FURTHER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVS HAVE COUNSELLED OTHER MISSIONS TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD. IN FACT, USUN NOW RECEIVES ONLY ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF ALL TICKETS ISSUED. SOME SOV OFFICERS RECEIVE AS MANY AS FOUR TICKETS A DAY; OTHERS ARE MORE RESTRAINED. WHILE MANY TICKETS RECEIVED BY SOVS ARE FOR PARKING METER VIOLATIONS, MANY OTHERS ARE FOR FIRE HYDRANTS, BUS STOPS, CROSS WALKS, AND NO-STANDING ZONES.

4. PARKING ISSUE IS NOW COMING TO HEAD IN COMITE ON HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS WHERE ITEM WILL BE DEBATED DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS. RATIONALE OF US VIEWPOINT IS CONTAINED IN WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY USMISSION AND SUBMITTED TO COMITE (A/AC.154/39). COPIES BEING POUCHED MOSCOW, LENINGRAD AND DEPT (SOV). AMB WHITE WILL BE MEETING WITH NYCITY OFFICIALS JULY 23 TO DISCUSS SOME MODIFICATIONS IN CURRENT PROCEDURES BUT WE BELIEVE WE MUST REMAIN FIRM ON OUR INSISTENCE THAT DIPLOMATS (SOVIETS INCLUDED) OBEY LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS SOVS FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON PROBLEM IN ATTEMPT AMELIORATE THEIR EXTREME POSITION.  
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## Message Attributes

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